



# STATE SENATOR DAVID LONG

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**SEN. DAVID LONG**  
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204  
317-232-9400

## Fellow Taxpayers:

Please know that I cut costs and saved valuable tax dollars on this important mailing to you by reducing its size and posting additional info on my Web site.

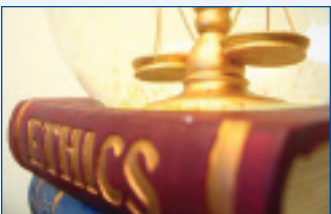
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## SEN. LONG: BILLS I SUPPORTED THIS SESSION

✓ **Child Support:** In an effort to collect more than \$2 billion in overdue child support payments, lawmakers passed a bill to withhold casino winnings from those who ignore their court-ordered obligations. The Indiana Department of Child Services estimates more than 165,000 "deadbeat parents" each owe more than \$2,000 in support payments. Colorado passed a similar law in July 2008, resulting in more than \$320 million in delinquent payments.

✓ **GOVERNMENT ETHICS:** Legislators passed comprehensive ethics reform legislation, creating a one-year cooling-off period before a retired legislator could become a lobbyist and requiring uniform reporting by all lobbyists. The threshold for reported one-time lobbyist expenses drops from \$100 to \$50, with the annual total dropping from \$500 to \$250. Registration and reporting requirements now include legislative liaisons of state agencies and universities.



✓ **Voting Accessibility:** House Enrolled Act 1109 makes voting easier for those with disabilities and military personnel serving our country overseas. The new law ensures disabled voters have the same access to private, independent voting methods when casting ballots early or absentee as they do when voting on Election Day. It also provides online and fax options for military personnel to cast a vote when serving overseas.



✓ **Gun Rights:** House Enrolled Act 1068 aims to keep the names, addresses and other identifying information of more than 300,000 Hoosiers with handgun licenses – also referred to as concealed carry permits – confidential like tax records. House Enrolled Act 1065 prohibits most businesses from enacting policies that prevent licensed gun owners from keeping legal firearms in their locked vehicles out of sight.



# SEN. DAVID LONG

SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 16 TAXPAYERS



## PROPERTY TAX CAP AMENDMENT PASSES SENATE, HOUSE

*Indiana voters in November's general election will decide if tax limits will be added to state Constitution – once and for all*

**H**oosier voters in November's general election will determine if permanent caps on property tax rates will be added to the Indiana Constitution.

Members of the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives this session have given final passage to a resolution that would constitutionally cap property tax rates at 1 percent for owner-occupied homes, 2 percent for other residential and agricultural properties and 3 percent for businesses.

This historic tax reform effort sets the stage to add the 1-2-3 caps to Indiana's Constitution. In order to change the state constitution, an amendment must be passed by two separately-elected sessions of the Indiana General Assembly and then approved by voters.



Immediately after a property tax crisis that sent tax bills skyrocketing and hordes of homeowners to the Statehouse demanding reforms, senators and House members in 2008 passed the phased-in property tax caps into law and started the constitutional amendment process. The Republican-led Senate kept momentum for the amendment by passing it again in 2009, but the caps did not receive a vote last year in the Democrat-controlled House.

This year's action by both the Senate and House proves lawmakers are once again siding with taxpayers and not tax spenders – keeping the promise of permanent property tax relief and reform.

Because lawmakers successfully passed the amendment through both chambers, Hoosier voters will have the final say on Nov. 2.

## EDUCATION

This session, lawmakers provided schools more financial flexibility and local control. We also took steps to address social promotion of students not reading at grade level.

Under House Enrolled Act 1367, schools can claim up to 5 percent of funding normally dedicated to capital projects and use it for instructional purposes. Schools agreeing to pay freezes for staff, excluding those for years of experience and new degrees, can use up to 10 percent. By allowing access to these resources,

money will be available to help schools prevent teacher layoffs and preserve instructional programs.

To avoid additional software costs and provide more local control, Senate Enrolled Act 309 gives local schools the option to continue budgeting on the calendar year or change to the state's fiscal year, July 1 – June 30.

HEA 1367 also requires a new statewide plan to improve reading performance among grade-schoolers. Input will be sought through public hearings.

## JOBS & ECONOMY

With little time and no money, lawmakers worked this session to maintain Indiana's pro-job climate of low taxes and limited regulation.

Senators successfully pushed the delay of \$400 million in new unemployment insurance premiums in 2010. Avoiding these increases should help employers retain or add workers.

Lawmakers also passed initiatives to help Hoosiers recover from the national recession:

- **New Employer Tax Credits** for businesses relocating or incorporating here

and hiring more than 10 full-time employees, not including owners.

- **Small Business Tax Credits** expanded to employers with fewer than 35 workers.

- **Small Business Ombudsman** to advocate with state agencies, navigate regulations, streamline paperwork and monitor burdensome red tape.

- **H.I.R.E.** (Helping Indiana Re-start Employment) initiative to offer tax incentives to employers who hire and train unemployed and underemployed Hoosiers.